

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 66

16p

The background of the cover is a vibrant orange-red space scene. In the lower-left foreground, a man with blonde hair, wearing a light blue shirt and a dark vest, is shown from the side, aiming a futuristic black handgun towards the right. In the upper-middle ground, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue and white outfit, is floating or running through the air. To her right, a large, yellow, spherical object with blue and green patterns is visible. In the lower-right foreground, a large, bright yellow sphere, possibly a planet or moon, is partially visible. The overall style is reminiscent of classic pulp magazine illustrations.

The
Pirates of Ka-Lor

STARBLAZER




LONG AGO, PIRATES TERRORISED THE SEVEN SEAS OF OLD EARTH. CENTURIES LATER, A NEW BREED OF BUCCANEERS WAS BORN, AS BLOODTHIRSTY AS THEIR FOREFATHERS AND WITH THE OCEANS OF SPACE THEIR HUNTING GROUND. THEY PLUNDERED, MURDERED AND FOUGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH SPACE IN A NEVER ENDING ORGY OF DESTRUCTION. THEY HAD TO BE STOPPED, ESPECIALLY THE MOST NOTORIOUS—CAPTAIN TEACH—BLACKBEARD.

The Pirates of Kalor

THE SPACE CRUISER 'GALOS' HEADED THROUGH DARK DIMENSIONS OF SPACE—
DESTINATION EARTH.

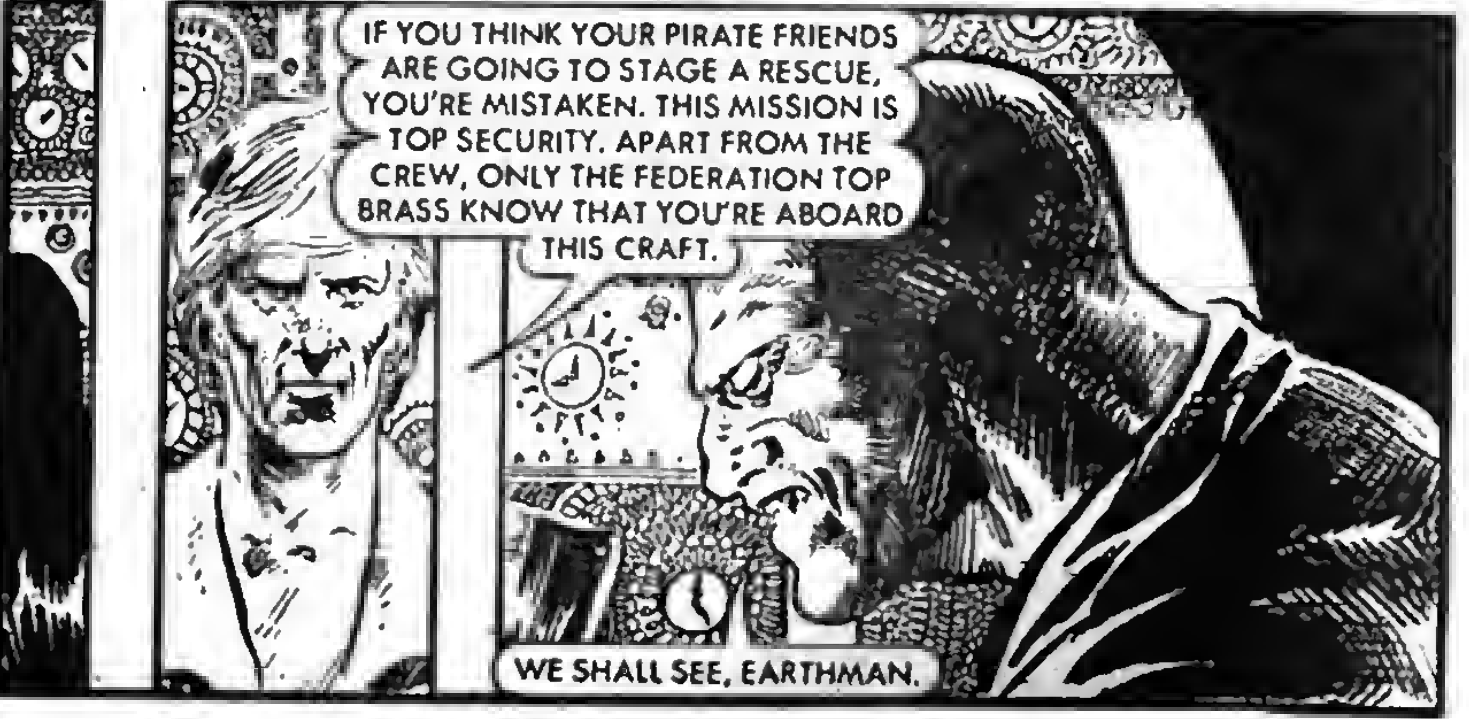


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THE CRUISER'S MISSION WAS TO DELIVER A CAPTURED SPACE PIRATE TO EARTH FOR TRIAL.



DON'T FOOL YOURSELF! I'LL NOT
STAND TRIAL. THIS CRAFT
WON'T MAKE IT TO EARTH.

DON'T BET ON IT, KRAL.



IF YOU THINK YOUR PIRATE FRIENDS
ARE GOING TO STAGE A RESCUE,
YOU'RE MISTAKEN. THIS MISSION IS
TOP SECURITY. APART FROM THE
CREW, ONLY THE FEDERATION TOP
BRASS KNOW THAT YOU'RE ABOARD
THIS CRAFT.

WE SHALL SEE, EARTHMAN.


'GALOS' WAS CARRYING A MINIMAL OPERATIONAL CREW—SKIPPER MARTIN FOSTER, TECHNICIAN JOE FONG AND A MARK II ANTI CRIME OPERATIONS ROBOT KNOWN AS ACOR. SPACE COMMANDO LIEUTENANT STEVE RYDER HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE CRAFT AS PRISONER'S ESCORT.



YOU'LL BE CLAIMING SOME LEAVE WHEN WE GET EARTHSIDE, STEVE?

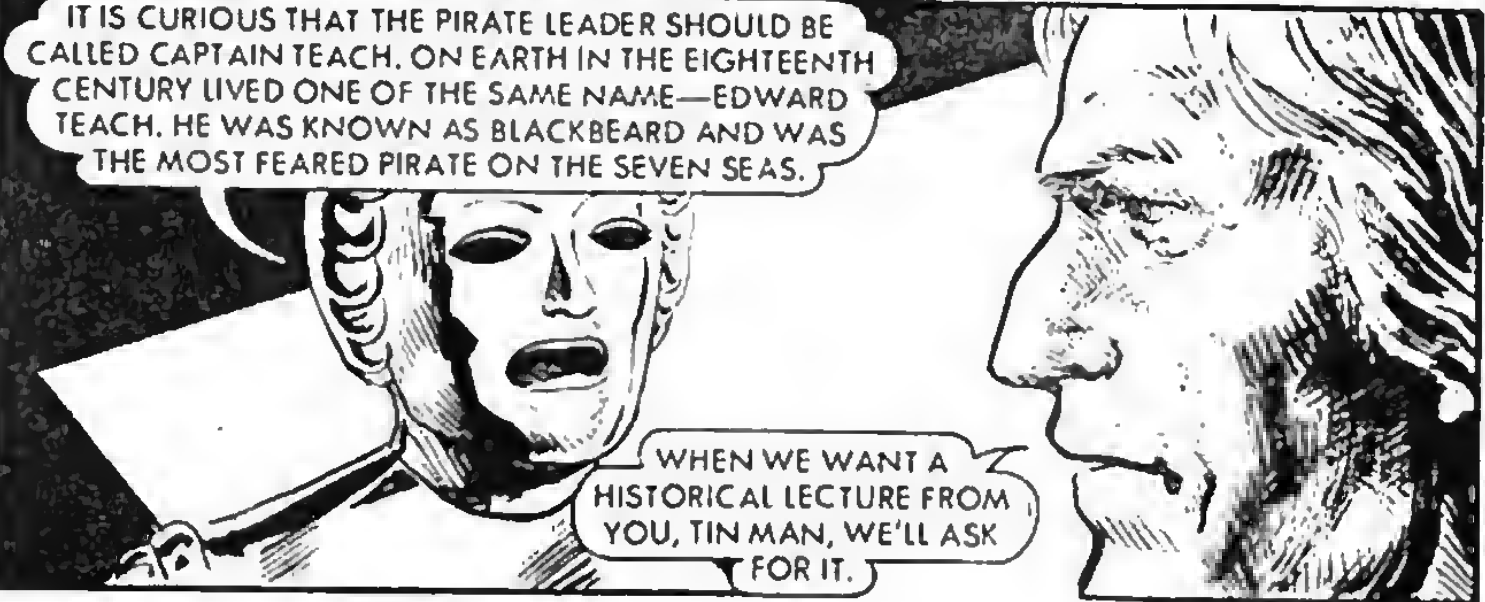
NO. I WANT TO GET BACK TO MY UNIT. WE MAY HAVE DESTROYED ONE PIRATE SHIP AND CAPTURED KRAL BUT THERE ARE MORE. THE SPACEWAYS AREN'T FREE OF PIRATES YET.

IT'S THEIR LEADER WE'RE AFTER—CAPTAIN TEACH. IF WE CAN GET HIM THE SPACE BUCCANEERS WILL BE FINISHED.



HE'S TOO SMART FOR THE GALACTIC FEDERATION, STEVE. HE'S AVOIDED CAPTURE SO FAR.

IT IS CURIOUS THAT THE PIRATE LEADER SHOULD BE CALLED CAPTAIN TEACH. ON EARTH IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY LIVED ONE OF THE SAME NAME—EDWARD TEACH. HE WAS KNOWN AS BLACKBEARD AND WAS THE MOST FEARED PIRATE ON THE SEVEN SEAS.



WHEN WE WANT A HISTORICAL LECTURE FROM YOU, TIN MAN, WE'LL ASK FOR IT.

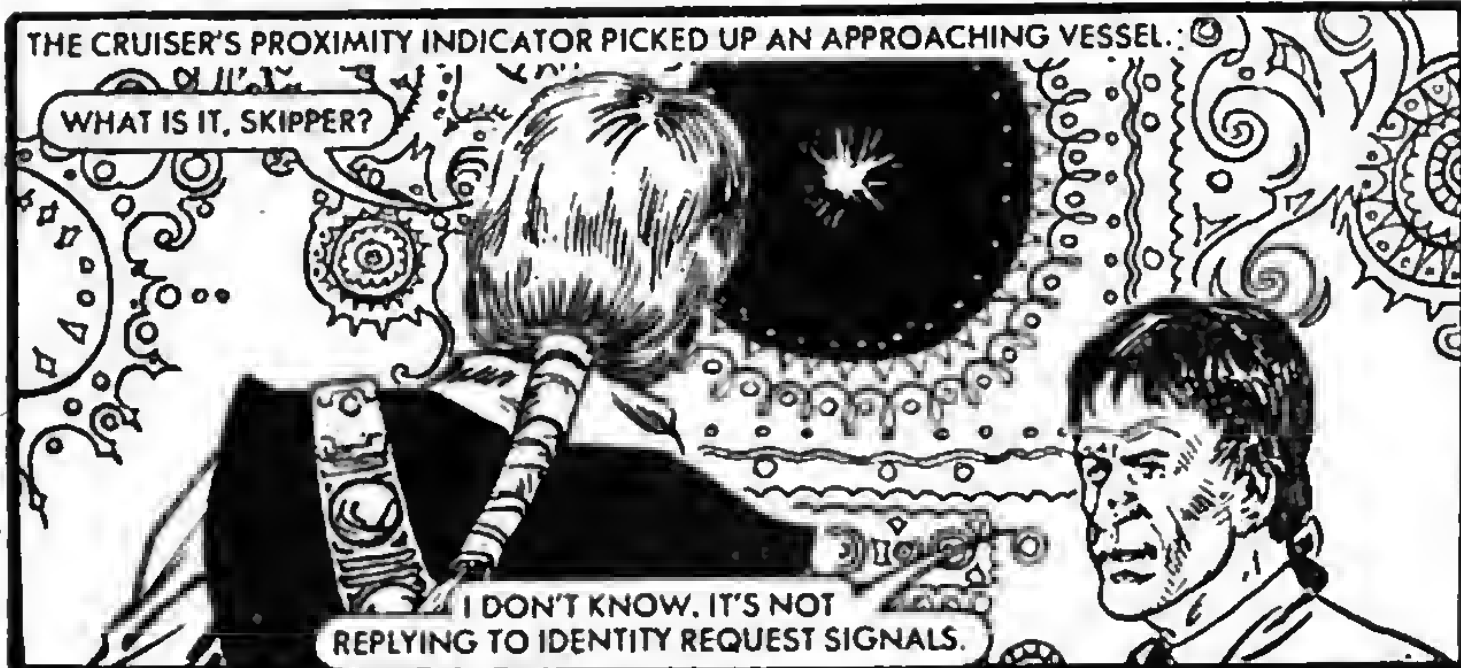
ACOR WAS ONLY TRYING
TO SUPPLY USEFUL
INFORMATION, STEVE. IT
IS HIS FUNCTION.



I KNOW, JOE. MAYBE I'M GETTING
JUMPY, WORRYING ABOUT KRAL.

THE CRUISER'S PROXIMITY INDICATOR PICKED UP AN APPROACHING VESSEL.

WHAT IS IT, SKIPPER?



I DON'T KNOW. IT'S NOT
REPLYING TO IDENTITY REQUEST SIGNALS.

AS THE VESSEL CAME CLOSER...

IT'S A PIRATE SHIP!

MAN THE GUNS!



A FACE APPEARED ON THE VIEWING SCREEN OF THE 'GALOS'.

HEAVE TO, AND WE'LL DO YE NO HARM. WE WANT YOUR PRISONER!

SAVE YOUR BREATH. WE'RE NOT HANDING KRAL OVER WITHOUT A FIGHT!

WE CAN'T FIGHT, STEVE. WE HAVEN'T GOT ENOUGH FIRE POWER. HAND OVER THE PRISONERS. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

NO! SWITCH TO MAX DRIVE. MAYBE WE CAN OUTFRAN THEM!





YOU THINK THEY WILL NOT ATTACK FOR FEAR OF HURTING ME, IS THAT IT? YOU ARE WRONG, RYDER. WE OF THE PIRATING FRATERNITY DO NOT FEAR DEATH. IF YOU WILL NOT HAND ME OVER THEN THEY WILL KILL US ALL! WE'LL DIE TOGETHER, RYDER, YOU AND I!

THE PIRATE SHIP OPENED FIRE WITH DEADLY ACCURACY.



THEY WISH TO FIGHT! SO BE IT!

REAR WEAPON CONTROL CIRCUITS HIT!



HIS GUN OUT OF ACTION, RYDER RETURNED TO THE CONTROL CABIN.

THIS IS THE FASTEST CRUISER IN THE SPACE FED FLEET. THOSE PIRATES SHOULD BE LIGHT HOURS BEHIND BY NOW. WHY AREN'T THEY?

THE MAXI DRIVE POWER SOURCE IS OUT OF ACTION, STEVE. IT'S NO GOOD!

THE POWER SOURCE ISN'T OUT OF ACTION. YOU HAVEN'T SWITCHED IT ON! WHAT'S YOUR GAME, FOSTER?

YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT. GET BACK!

I DID A DEAL WITH KRAL. FOR MORE SPACE CREDITS THAN I'D EARN IN A LIFETIME SKIPPERING FOR THE LOUSY GALACTIC FEDERATION.

SO THAT'S HOW THEY KNEW! YOU FOOL, FOSTER! DO YOU THINK THEY'LL LET YOU GO FREE?

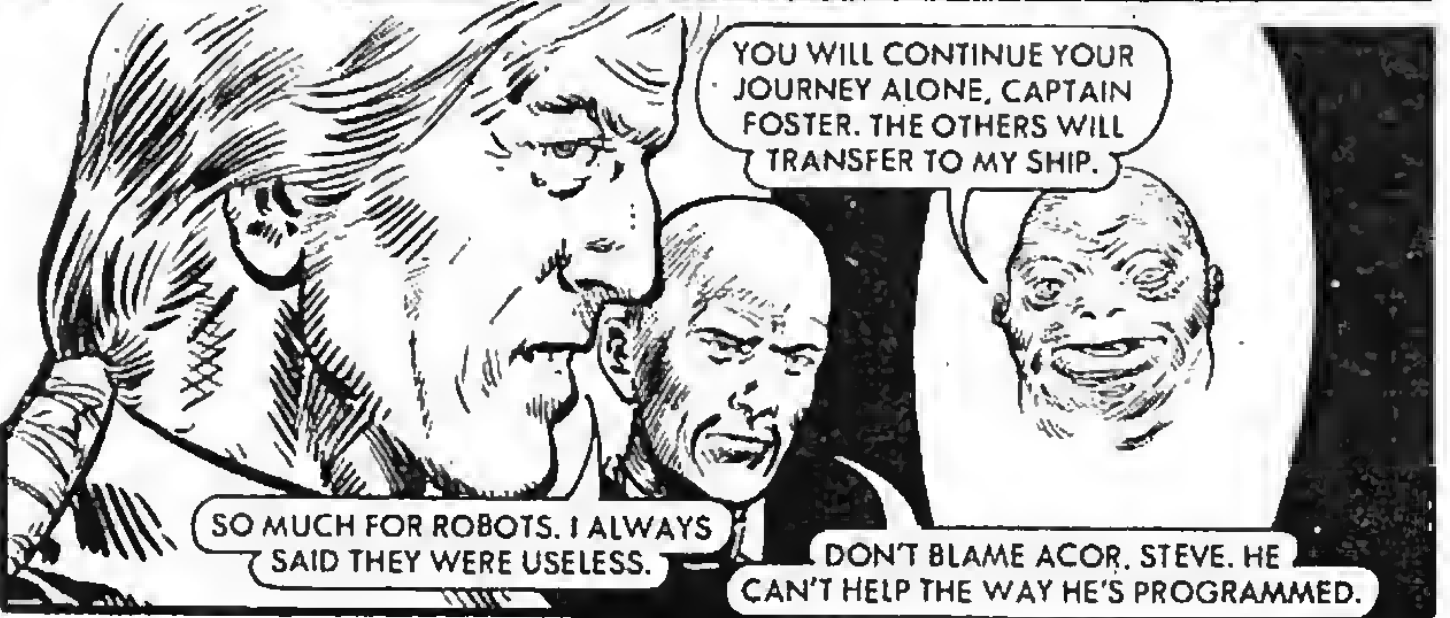


DO SOMETHING, ROBOT!
STOP HIM!

CEASE FIRE!
WE SURRENDER!



REGRET UNABLE TO ASSIST, LIEUTENANT.
I APPRECIATE CAPTAIN FOSTER'S
ACTIONS ARE UNETHICAL BUT I AM
UNFORTUNATELY PROGRAMMED TO
OBEY HIM WHILST HE IS COMMANDER
OF THIS CRAFT.



YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR
JOURNEY ALONE, CAPTAIN
FOSTER. THE OTHERS WILL
TRANSFER TO MY SHIP.

SO MUCH FOR ROBOTS. I ALWAYS
SAID THEY WERE USELESS.

DON'T BLAME ACOR. STEVE. HE
CAN'T HELP THE WAY HE'S PROGRAMMED.

KRAL WAS RELEASED FROM HIS CELL. TRANSFER TO THE PIRATE VESSEL COMMENCED . . .



I'LL COLLECT MY REWARD AND RETURN TO EARTH A RICH MAN. MY REPORT OF HOW YOU AND FONG DIED BRAVELY WHILE FIGHTING OFF THE PIRATE ATTACK WILL BE MOST CONVINCING.

YOU'RE CRAZY, FOSTER! ONLY A MADMAN WOULD TRUST THESE CUT THROATS.

A LASER BLAST SEARED INTO ACOR'S CHEST, BURNING OUT HIS COMPO-CIRCUITS.



THE CRUISER CAPTAIN AWAITS HIS REWARD FOR ASSISTING IN MY RESCUE.

EARTH MEN ARE SO TRUSTING. HE SHALL HAVE HIS REWARD WHEN I AM FINISHED WITH THE ROBOT!

ONCE ON BOARD THE PIRATE VESSEL.

DESTROY THE CRUISER!
FOSTER'S USEFULNESS IS ENDED.

YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
IT'S COLD-BLOODED MURDER!



THE PIRATES METHODICALLY BLASTED 'GALOS' AND CAPTAIN FOSTER'S DREAMS OF WEALTH DIED WITH HIM ...



INSIDE THE BATTERED ROBOT, AN AUTOMATIC ACTIVATOR SWITCHED TO EMERGENCY INDEPENDENT CIRCUITS ... ACOR CAME SLOWLY BACK TO LIFE.

MUST RENDER ASSISTANCE ... IF ...
POSSIBLE ...



ACOR USED MAGNAGRABS TO ATTACH HIMSELF TO THE PIRATE CRAFT'S HULL.

LET'S GET BACK TO BASE AND HAND
THESE TWO EARTHLING'S TO CAPTAIN
TEACH!

ENGAGE MAIN DRIVE!
SET-COURSE FOR KA-LOR.

YES, RYDER THE PLANET KA-LOR IS OUR BASE.
THE GALACTIC FEDERATION NEVER THOUGHT
TO SEEK US THERE. AND DO NOT THINK YOU'LL
FIND A WAY TO LET THEM KNOW. FOR YOU HAVE
NOT LONG TO LIVE.

DON'T BE TOO
SURE OF THAT, KRALI



IN SECONDS THE LIGHT DRIVE TOOK THEM TO KA-LOR.



THE PIRATE CRAFT CAME IN TO LAND IN
THE SPACEDOCK.

YOU SEE, RYDER? WE STORE OUR
CAPTURED GOODS HERE AND SELL THEM TO
SPACE MERCHANTS WHO ARE PREPARED
TO DEAL. A PROFITABLE BUSINESS
FOR US ALL.



UNSEEN, ACOR SLIPPED TO THE GROUND.

IT IS NECESSARY TO HIDE AND
AWAIT A CHANCE TO HELP RYDER AND
FONG...



RYDER AND FONG WERE TAKEN TO THE PIRATE LEADER, CAPTAIN TEACH.

SO, YOU RETURN TO THE FOLD,
KRAL, AND BRING TWO PRISONERS.
IT IS GOOD. MY TIRALS GROW
HUNGRY FOR MEAT.



CLIPPING, 10-11-1971



YOU CAN KILL US, TEACH. BUT YOUR DAYS OF TERRORISING THE SPACEWAYS WON'T LAST. THE GALACTIC FEDERATION WILL TRACK YOU DOWN AND DESTROY YOU.

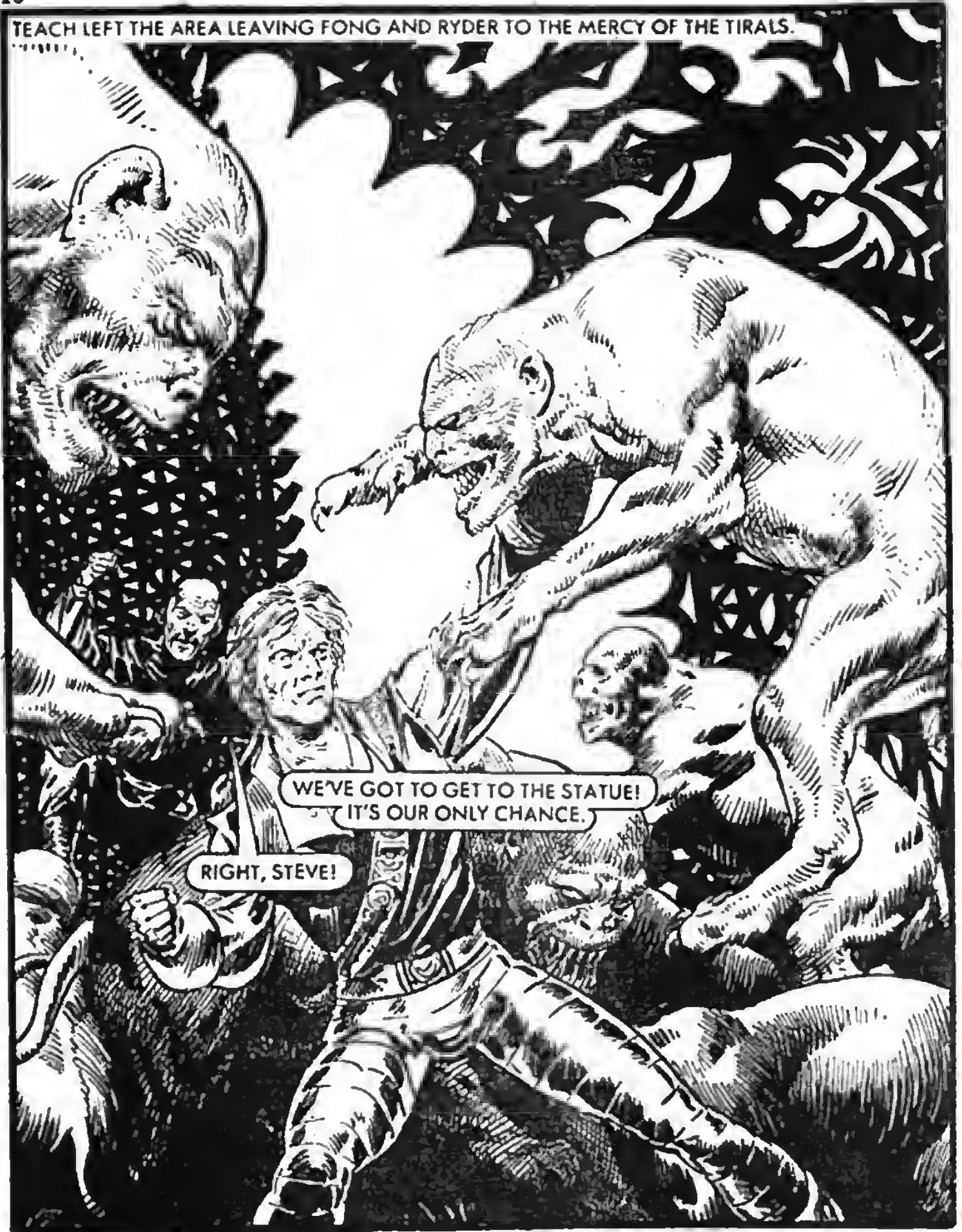
THEY WILL NOT CATCH US. THE NAME OF CAPTAIN TEACH—BLACK-BEARD—WILL BE WRITTEN LARGE IN THE ANNALS OF SPACE HISTORY.



YOU'RE MAD, TEACH!

BACK, MY BEAUTIES! BACK! YOU WILL DINE SOON ENOUGH.

TEACH LEFT THE AREA LEAVING FONG AND RYDER TO THE MERCY OF THE TIRALS.



WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE STATUE!
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE.

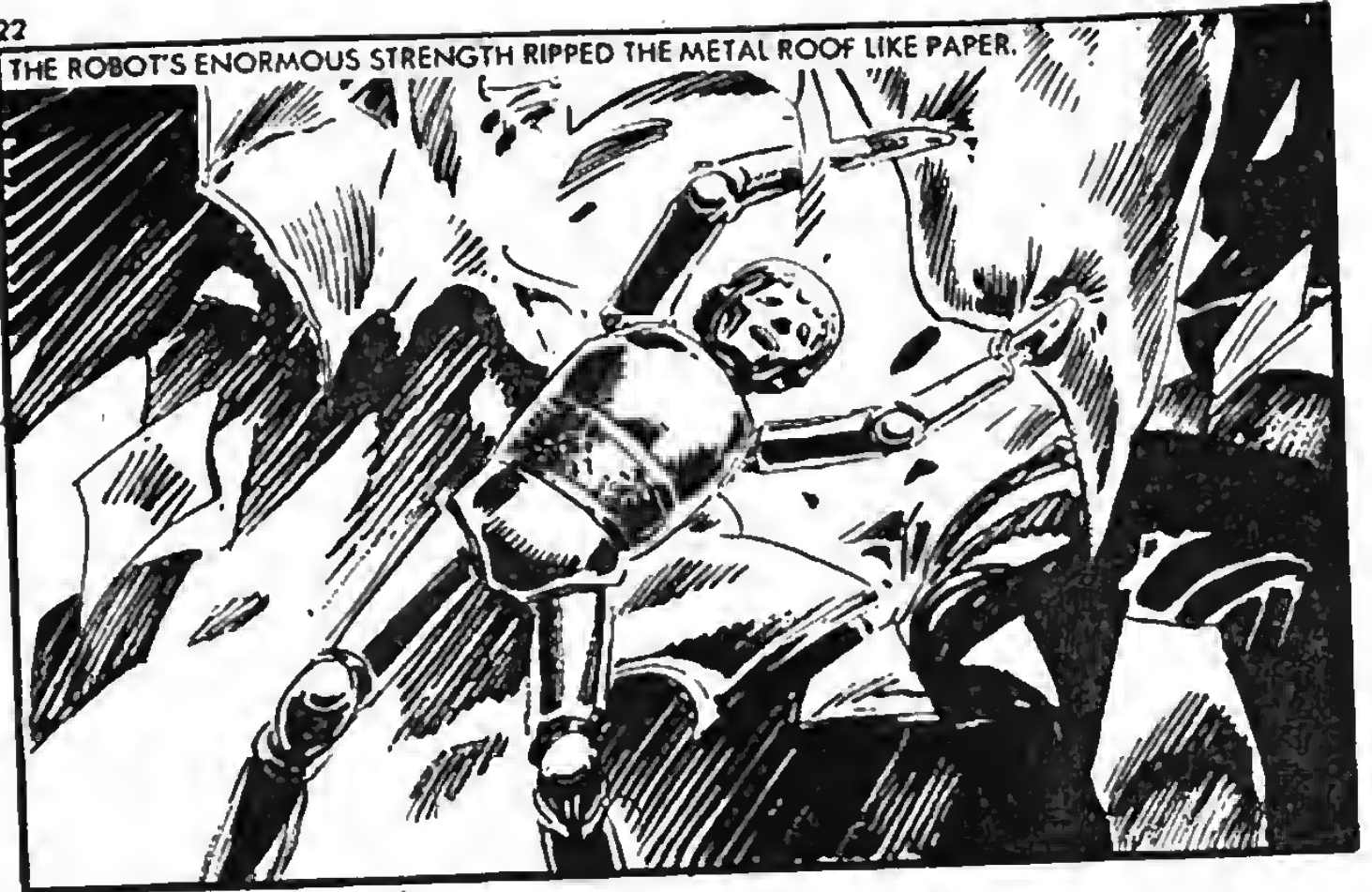
RIGHT, STEVE!



THE WALLS ARE STONE BUT THIS
ROOF IS OF A METALLIC
SUBSTANCE THAT MAY YIELD.

ACOR HAD MANAGED TO ENTER THE BUILDING.

THE ROBOT'S ENORMOUS STRENGTH RIPPED THE METAL ROOF LIKE PAPER.



ACORI HOW IN BLAZES...?

QUESTION IRRELEVANT. I
SUGGEST WE CONCENTRATE ON ESCAPE.



THEY WERE SOON SPOTTED!

THE PRISONERS
ARE ESCAPING!

YOU KNOW WHAT WE NEED
TO GET OUT OF HERE?

A LOT OF LUCK?

STEVE THREW HIMSELF AT THE PIRATE.

WHAT WE NEED
IS TRANSPORT!

RYDER FOUGHT TO CONTROL THE STRANGE CRAFT.

GO NOW. ESCAPE WHILE YOU MAY.

NOT WITHOUT YOU, ACOR.



FONG CAPTURED A CRAFT—







apri

THEY LANDED IN THE DENSELY WOODED FOREST.

GET A MOVE ON, ACOR. LET'S
DISAPPEAR BEFORE THOSE CUT-
THROATS LAND!

YES, LIEUTENANT.



THEY RAN ON UNTIL THE SOUNDS OF PURSUIT FADED BEHIND THEM.


WE SHOULD BE SAFE NOW.
FOR A WHILE AT LEAST.

I COULD USE A REST.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ACOR?

RELAXATION IS UNNECESSARY
FOR ME, MR FONG.



THE FOREST SUDDENLY OPENED OUT INTO A CLEARING IN WHICH WERE WOODEN HUTS
AND ... PEOPLE.

A black and white comic book illustration. In the foreground, an older man with a beard and a patterned shirt is crouching down, looking towards a group of people in the background. He is holding a long object, possibly a staff or a tool. In the background, a group of about seven people, mostly women in long, light-colored dresses, are standing in a line. They are in a clearing with several small, round wooden huts. The background is filled with dense tropical foliage, including palm trees and large leaves. The scene is set in a clearing, with the forest opening up around it.

IF YOU BE NOT OF THOSE WHO NOW
CONTROL OUR CITY, THEN WELCOME,
STRANGERS.

WE'RE NOT PIRATES, OLD
MAN, BUT WHO ARE YOU?



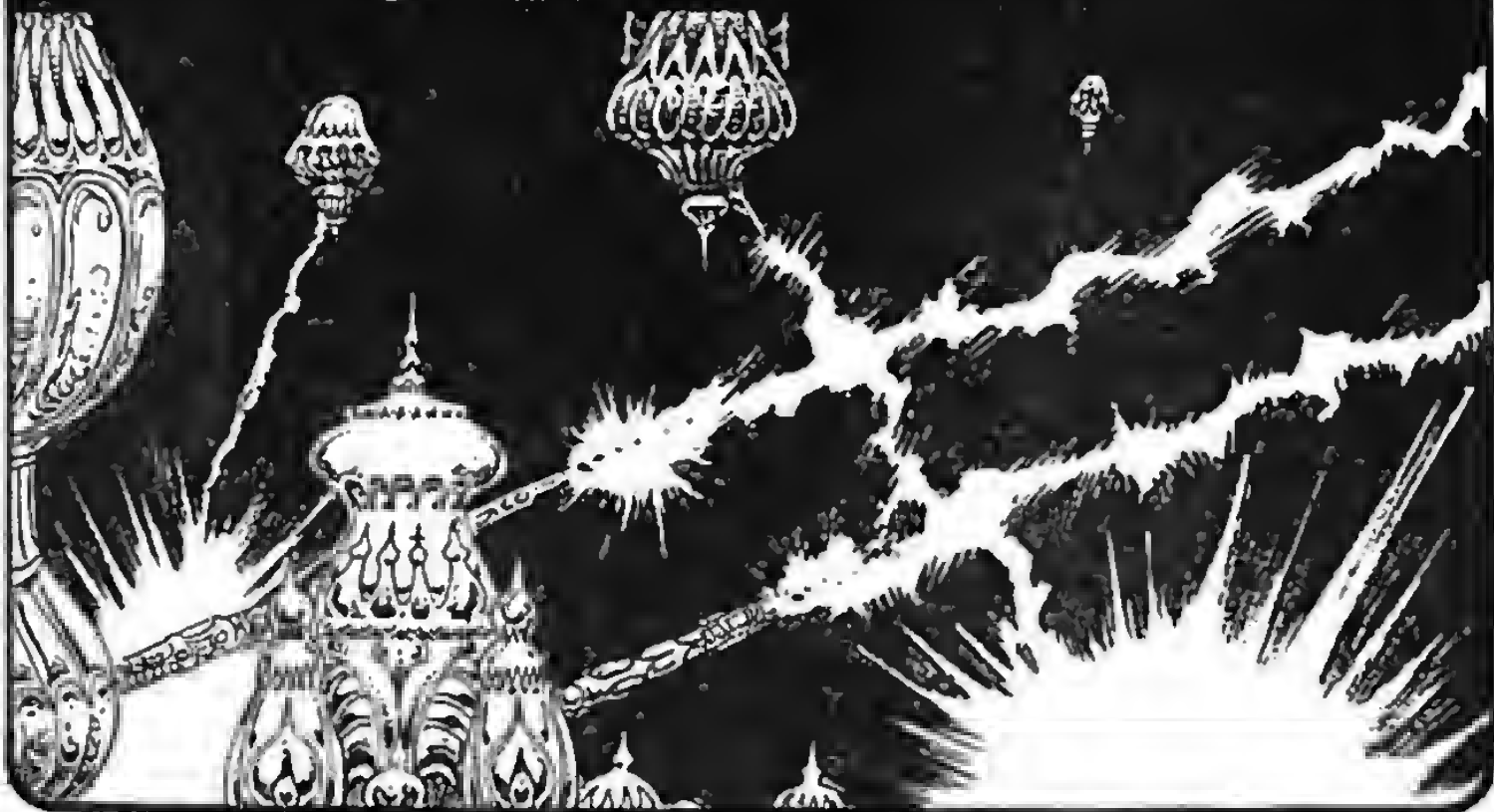
WE ARE THE TRIBE OF LOR. SINCE THE BLACK BEARDED ONE CAME TO OUR PLANET WITH HIS MEN, LIFE HAS BEEN HARD FOR US. BEFORE, WE LIVED AT PEACE IN DWELLINGS OF STONE, TENDING OUR LAND AND OUR ANIMALS. NOW WE MUST HIDE IN THE FOREST. AND WAIT.

WAIT FOR WHAT?



WE WAIT FOR THE GREAT MERLAN TO COME TO OUR AID. ONCE OUR PLANET WAS BESET BY MANY ENEMIES. WE KNEW THE WAYS OF WAR...

... NOTHING SEEMED TO EXIST FOR US BUT WAR. AS OUR TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONS IMPROVED SO DID THOSE OF OUR ENEMIES. WE GREW TIRED OF WAR ...



... AND THEN ONE DAY THE GREAT MERLAN CAME FROM THE DARK REACHES OF SPACE. WE KNEW NOT WHO HE WAS BUT HE HAD POWER OVER THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES AND DROVE OUR ENEMIES FROM US!



PEACE CAME TO KA-LOR. OUR ENEMIES ATTACKED NO MORE. UNDER MERLAN'S PROTECTION OUR PEOPLE GREW CONTENT. FINALLY WE LEFT OUR CITIES, TIRED OF THEIR ARTIFICIAL COMFORTS, AND TOOK RESIDENCE IN THE FIELDS, TO LIVE IN TRANQUILITY WITH NATURE.

WHERE IS YOUR GREAT MERLAN NOW?

OVER THE YEARS HE BECAME WEARY UNTIL, ONE DAY, HE LEFT US TO SEEK SOLITUDE IN THE MOUNTAIN OF KA WHICH LIES BEYOND THE FOREST TO THE WEST. HE PROMISED THAT IF WE SHOULD NEED HIS HELP AGAIN HE WOULD RETURN TO ASSIST US. BUT HE HAS NOT COME.

IF THIS IS TRUE, MAYBE WE OUGHT TO GO AND WAKE HIM UP.

WHEN DID MERLAN GO TO THE MOUNTAIN?

I DO NOT KNOW. IT IS SAID THIS ALL HAPPENED MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.



RYDER KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE PEACEFUL VILLAGERS IF CAPTAIN TEACH FOUND THEM.

COME ON. WE'VE GOT TO LEAD THOSE PIRATES AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.

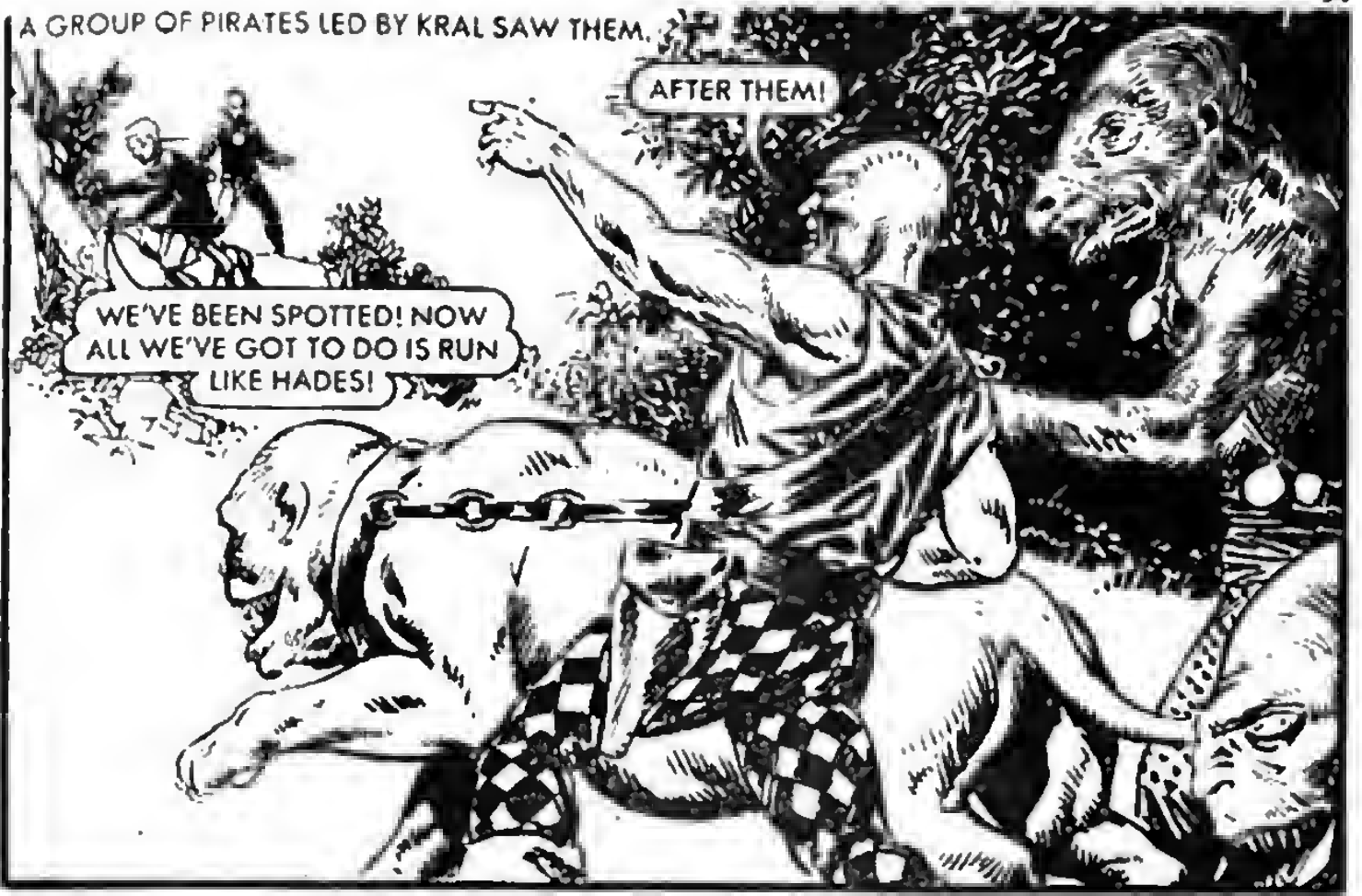
SELF SACRIFICE IS AN ADMIRABLE HUMAN QUALITY. ENTIRELY ILL'OGICAL, BUT ADMIRABLE.



A GROUP OF PIRATES LED BY KRAL SAW THEM.

AFTER THEM!

WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED! NOW
ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS RUN
LIKE HADES!



BUT THEY COULDN'T OUT-RUN THE FLEET-FOOTED TIRALS.

KEEP RUNNING! I'LL
DEAL WITH THESE CREATURES.



RYDER DIDN'T SEE ANOTHER DANGER THAT APPROACHED!



FONG WAS UNABLE TO STOP THE PIRATES.

RUN, JOE! YOU'VE GOT TO GET AWAY.

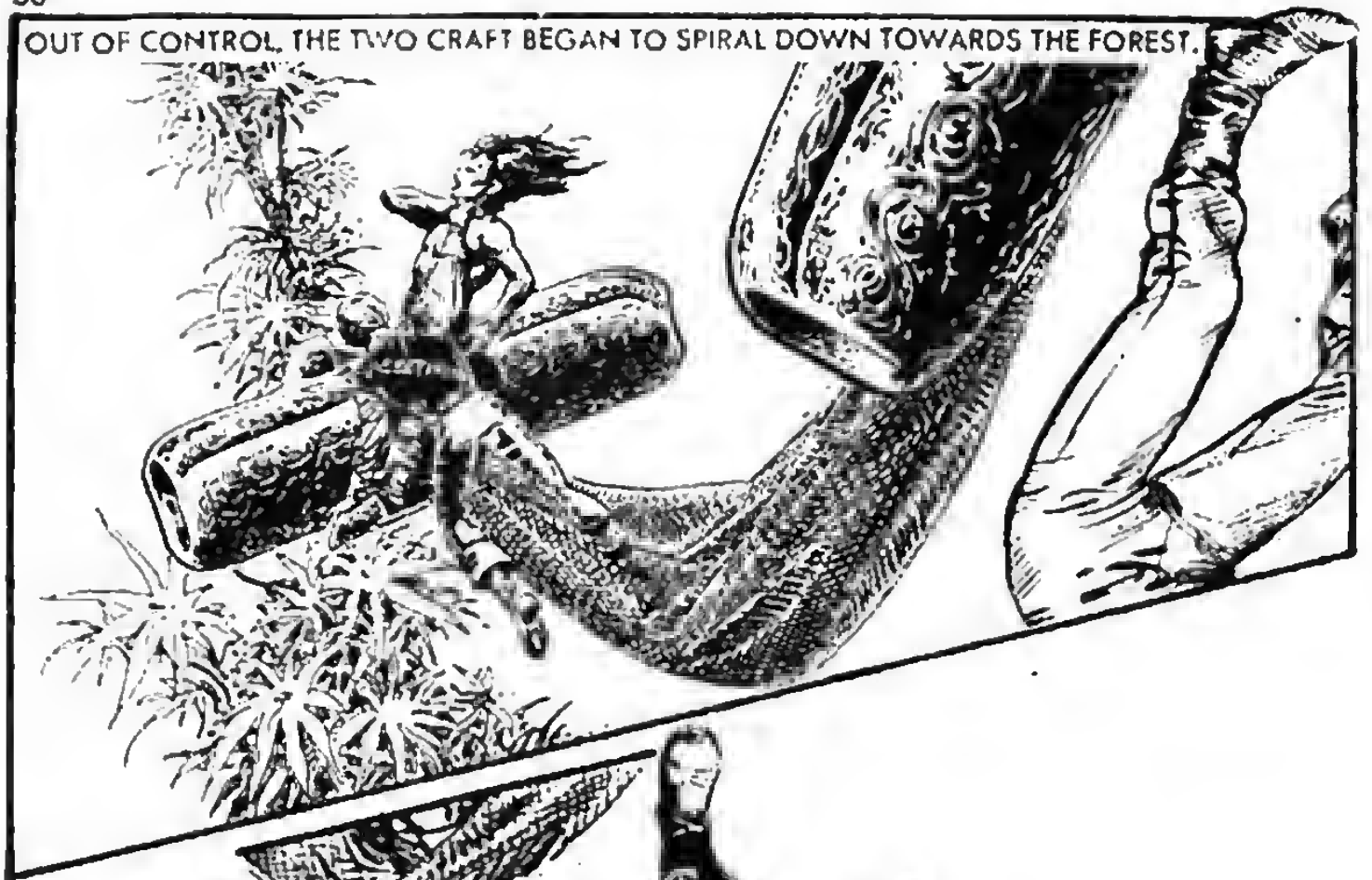
ONE PIRATE WAS HIT—

HE'S TOO BUSY TRYING TO
KEEP CONTROL TO PAY MUCH
ATTENTION TO ME.

BUT THE PIRATE SPOTTED HIM TOO SOON. STILL HALF-TANGLED IN
THE NET, RYDER COULD ONLY GRAB FOR HIS GUN HAND.

DIE, EARTHLING!

OUT OF CONTROL, THE TWO CRAFT BEGAN TO SPIRAL DOWN TOWARDS THE FOREST.



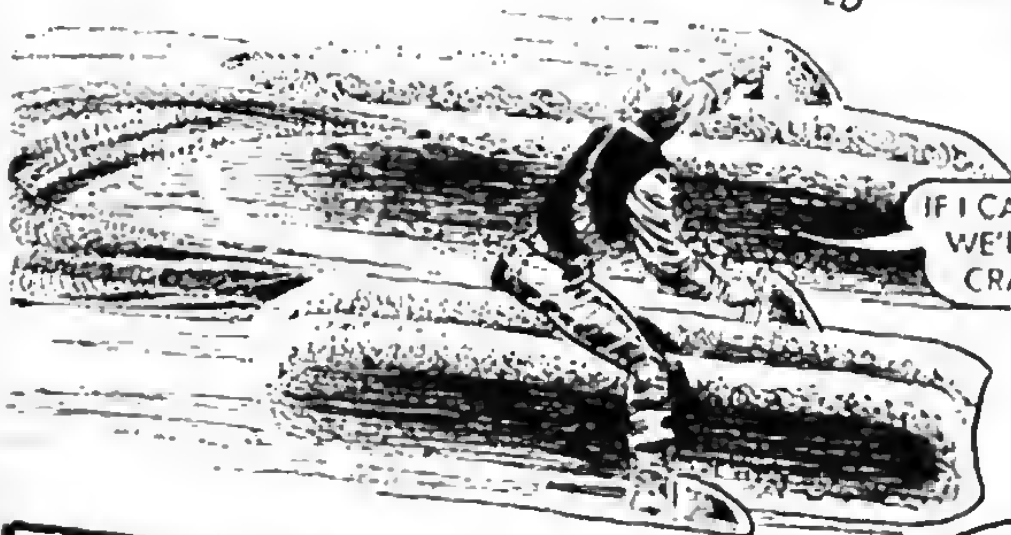
THE CRAFT LURCHED UPSIDE DOWN AND THE TWO COMBATANTS FELL.

THE NET THAT CAPTURED RYDER HELD HIM FAST.



THAT WAS CLOSE!

RYDER BATTLED FOR CONTROL AS THE TWO CRAFT DIVED
TOWARDS THE FOREST BELOW.



IF I CAN OPERATE THEM BOTH
WE'LL AT LEAST HAVE TWO
CRAFT FOR A GETAWAY!

MEANWHILE, FONG AND ACOR FOUND THEMSELVES TRAPPED.



I WOULD RECOMMEND SURRENDER,
MR FONG. TO FIGHT ON WOULD BE
FUTILE. SURRENDER AND WE MAY
MEET UP WITH LIEUTENANT RYDER
AGAIN AND PERHAPS FORMULATE
ANOTHER PLAN.

I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES
SENSE, ACOR.

THE PIRATE CHIEF ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.

THE COMMANDO KNOWN AS RYDER HAS
BEEN CAPTURED AND NOW THE
OTHER TWO HAVE SURRENDERED.



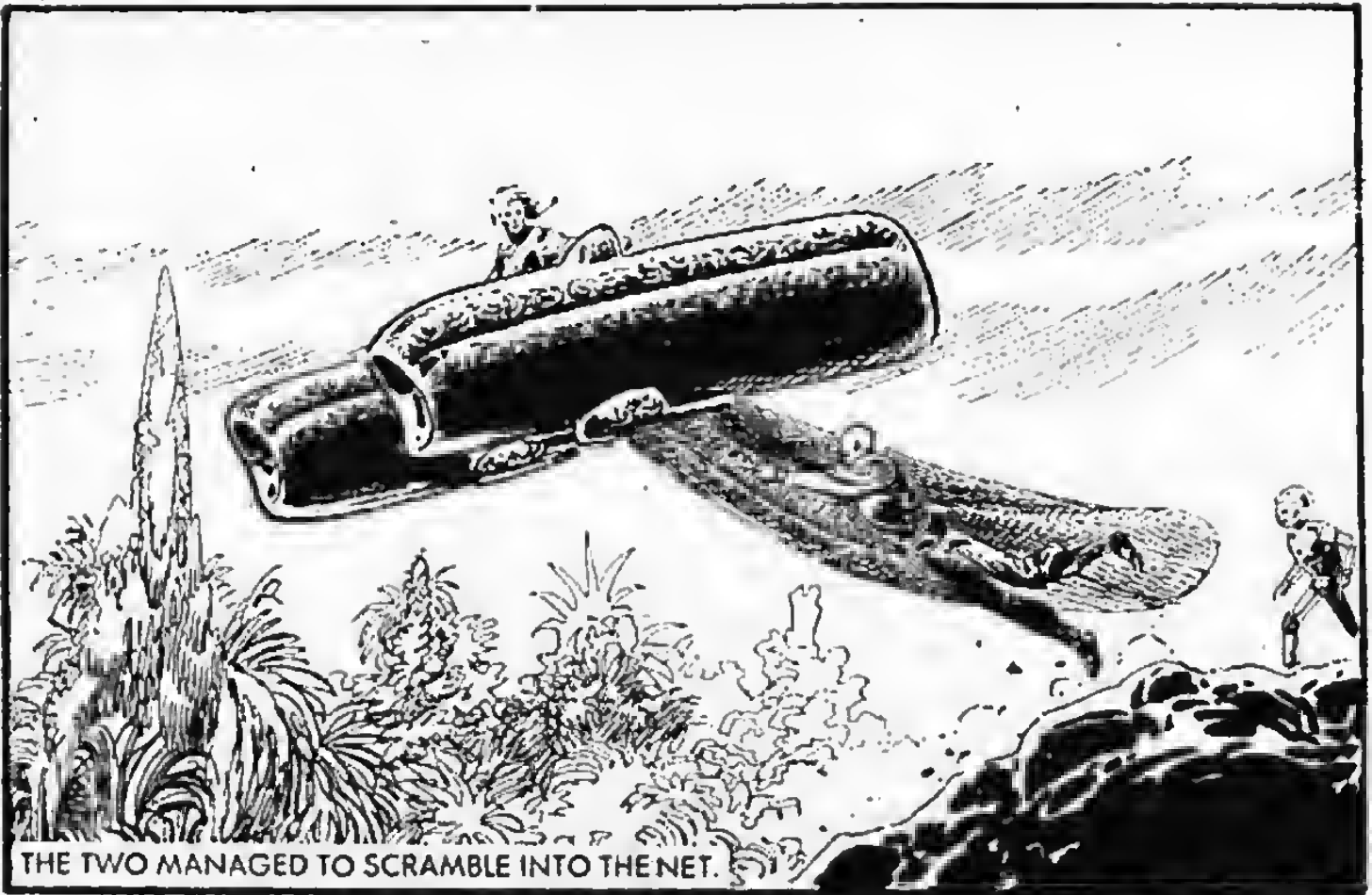
AT THAT MOMENT STEVE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE—

JOE! ACOR!
GRAB THE NET!



RIGHT, STEVE!





WE'VE GOT TO LAY OUR
HANDS ON SOME WEAPONS.



IDIOTS! WE ARE FEARED THROUGHOUT
THE GALAXY YET WE LET TWO MEN AND A
ROBOT MAKE MONKEYS OF US! THEY MUST
BE DESTROYED.





IN A CLEARING NEARBY, SOME PIRATES WERE WORKING ON A GROUNDED ANTI-GRAV CRAFT.

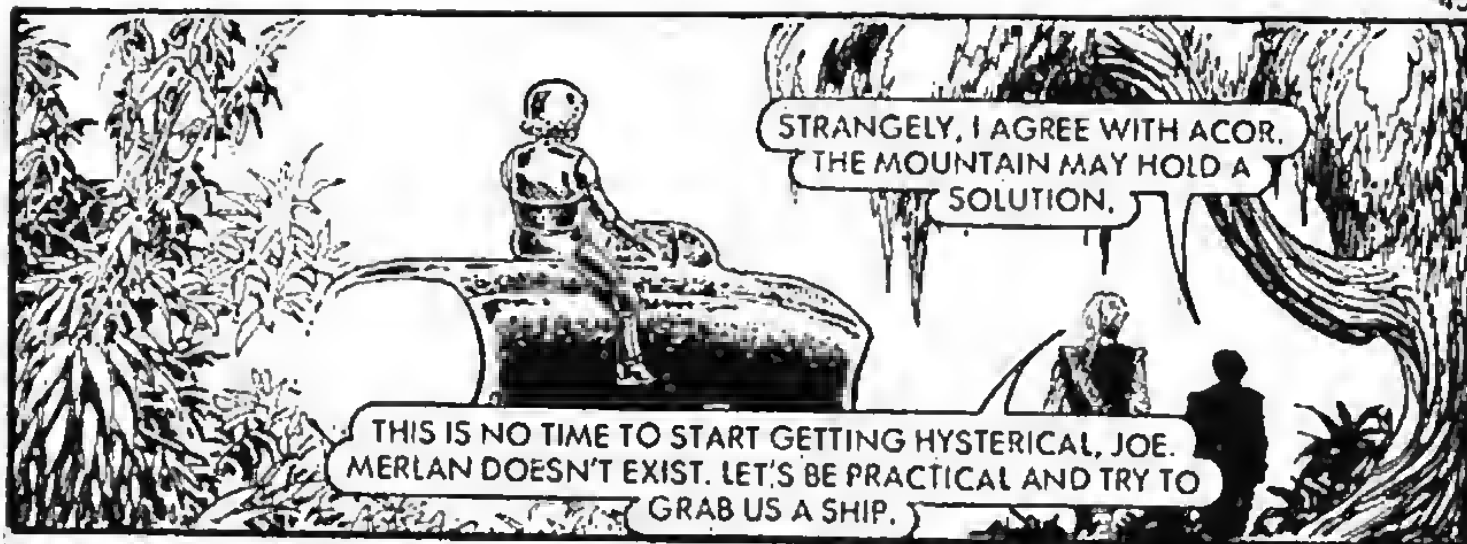


THE SUDDEN ATTACK TOOK THE PIRATES BY SURPRISE.



IT WAS OVER IN SECONDS.





RYDER KNEW THAT THEIR ATTEMPT TO STEAL A SPACECRAFT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY END IN FAILURE.



BUT AS THEY HEADED TOWARDS THE CITY, PIRATE CRAFT CAME OUT TO MEET THEM.



RYDER AND FONG VEERED AWAY FROM THE ONCOMING PIRATE CRAFT BUT ACOR DID NOT ALTER COURSE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, TIN MAN. I SAID TURN BACK.

I AM WORKING ON INDEPENDENT CIRCUITS, LIEUTENANT. I DO NOT HAVE TO OBEY ORDERS. HEAD FOR THE MOUNTAIN. I WILL COVER YOUR RETREAT.

THE ROBOT IGNORED RYDER'S COMMANDS TO TURN BACK.

WELL, IF THERE'S SUCH A THING AS COURAGE IN ROBOTS, HE'S GOT PLENTY, THEY'LL MANGLE HIM.

LOOK AHEAD, STEVE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET BACK TO THE FOREST!

LOOKS LIKE WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO HEAD FOR THE MOUNTAIN.

PERHAPS FATE, OR DESTINY, HAD ALREADY MADE THAT OUR DESTINATION.

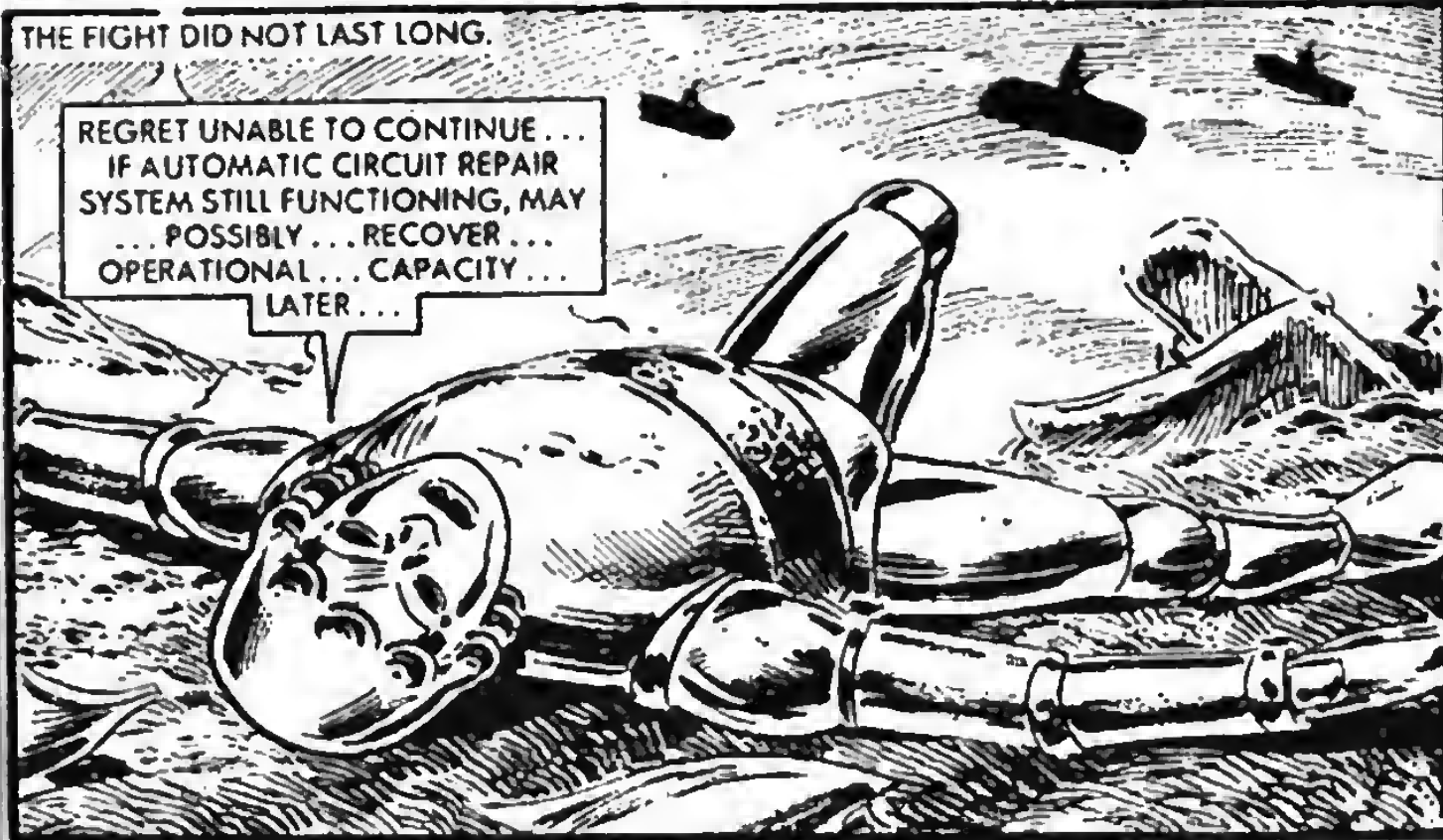
THE ROBOT RODE INTO BATTLE LIKE A KNIGHT OF OLD EARTH



I AM ON INDEPENDENT
CIRCUIT. I DID NOT HAVE TO
CHOOSE TO BE DESTROYED.
WHY, THEN, DID I DO SO?
IS THIS WHAT HUMANS CALL
SELF SACRIFICE?

THE FIGHT DID NOT LAST LONG.

REGRET UNABLE TO CONTINUE...
IF AUTOMATIC CIRCUIT REPAIR
SYSTEM STILL FUNCTIONING, MAY
... POSSIBLY ... RECOVER ...
OPERATIONAL ... CAPACITY ...
LATER...

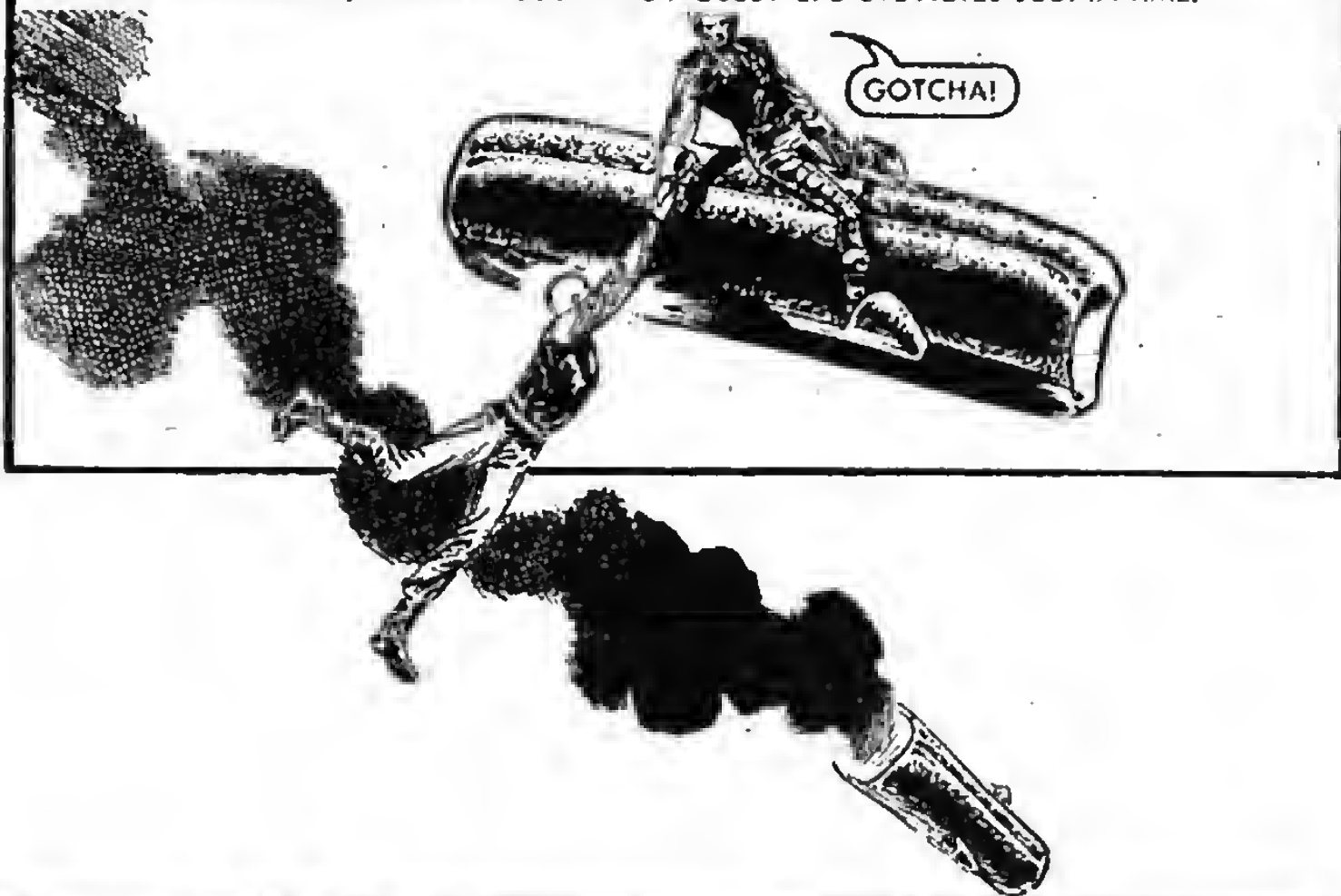




BUT AS THEY APPROACHED THE MOUNTAIN OF KA, THE PROPULSION UNIT OF FONG'S CRAFT FALTERED.



AS PROPULSION FAILED, THE CRAFT BEGAN TO NOSEDIVE. STEVE ACTED JUST IN TIME.



THIS'LL HAVE TO DO US. NOW WE'VE GOT TO FIND SOME SHELTER, QUICK!



IN THERE, JOE! THROUGH
THAT CLEFT. AND MAKE IT SNAPPY!



I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT LEADS
BUT THEY CAN'T USE ANTI-
GRAV CRAFT IN HERE.

THEY CAN FOLLOW ON FOOT,
THOUGH. LET'S GET MOVING!



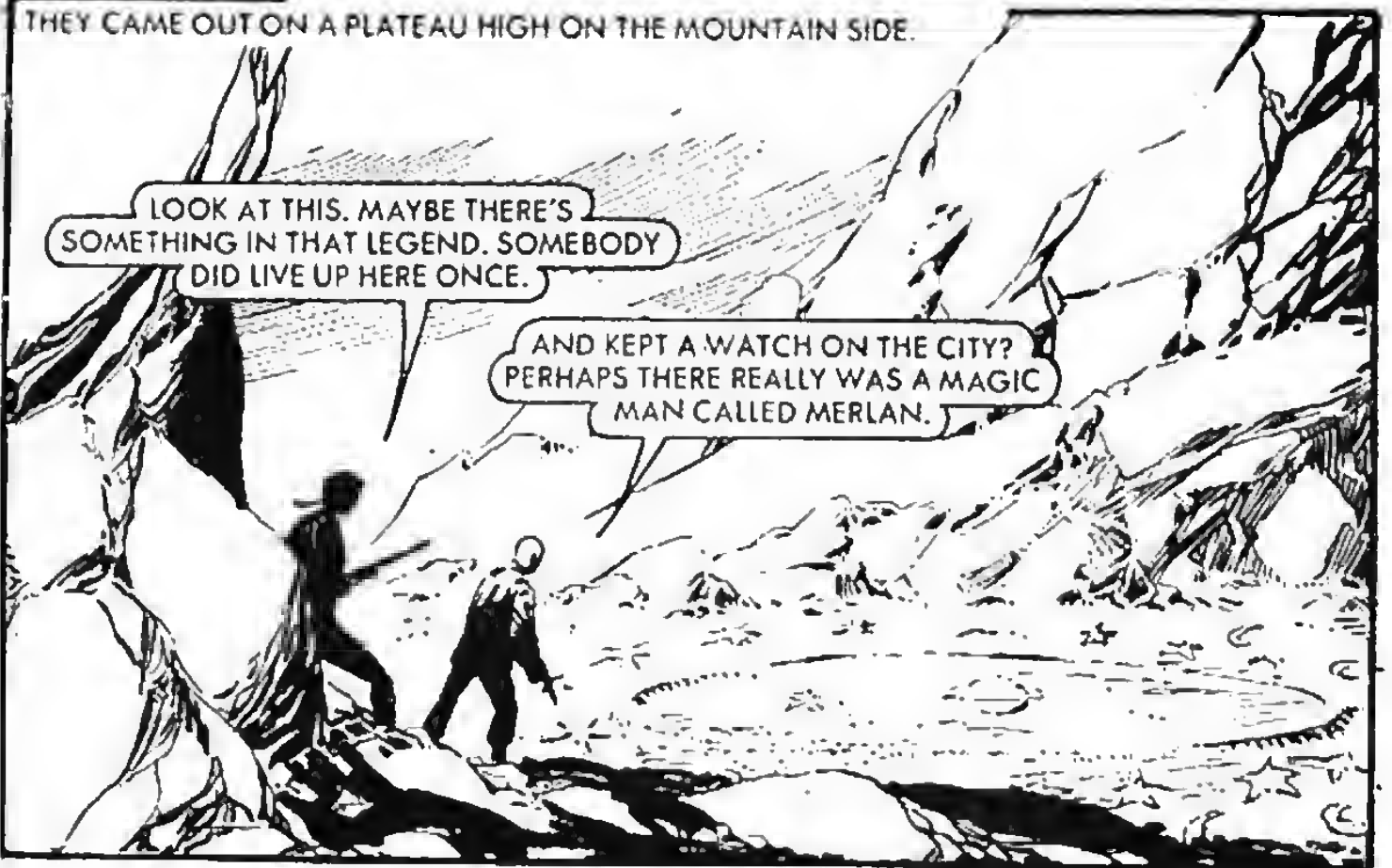
THE TWO MEN MADE THEIR WAY UP THROUGH THE HOLLOW ROCK.



THEY CAME OUT ON A PLATEAU HIGH ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE.

LOOK AT THIS. MAYBE THERE'S
SOMETHING IN THAT LEGEND. SOMEBODY
DID LIVE UP HERE ONCE.

AND KEPT A WATCH ON THE CITY?
PERHAPS THERE REALLY WAS A MAGIC
MAN CALLED MERLAN.





THEY'RE NOT SEARCHING THIS HIGH UP. WE SHOULD BE SAFE FOR A WHILE.

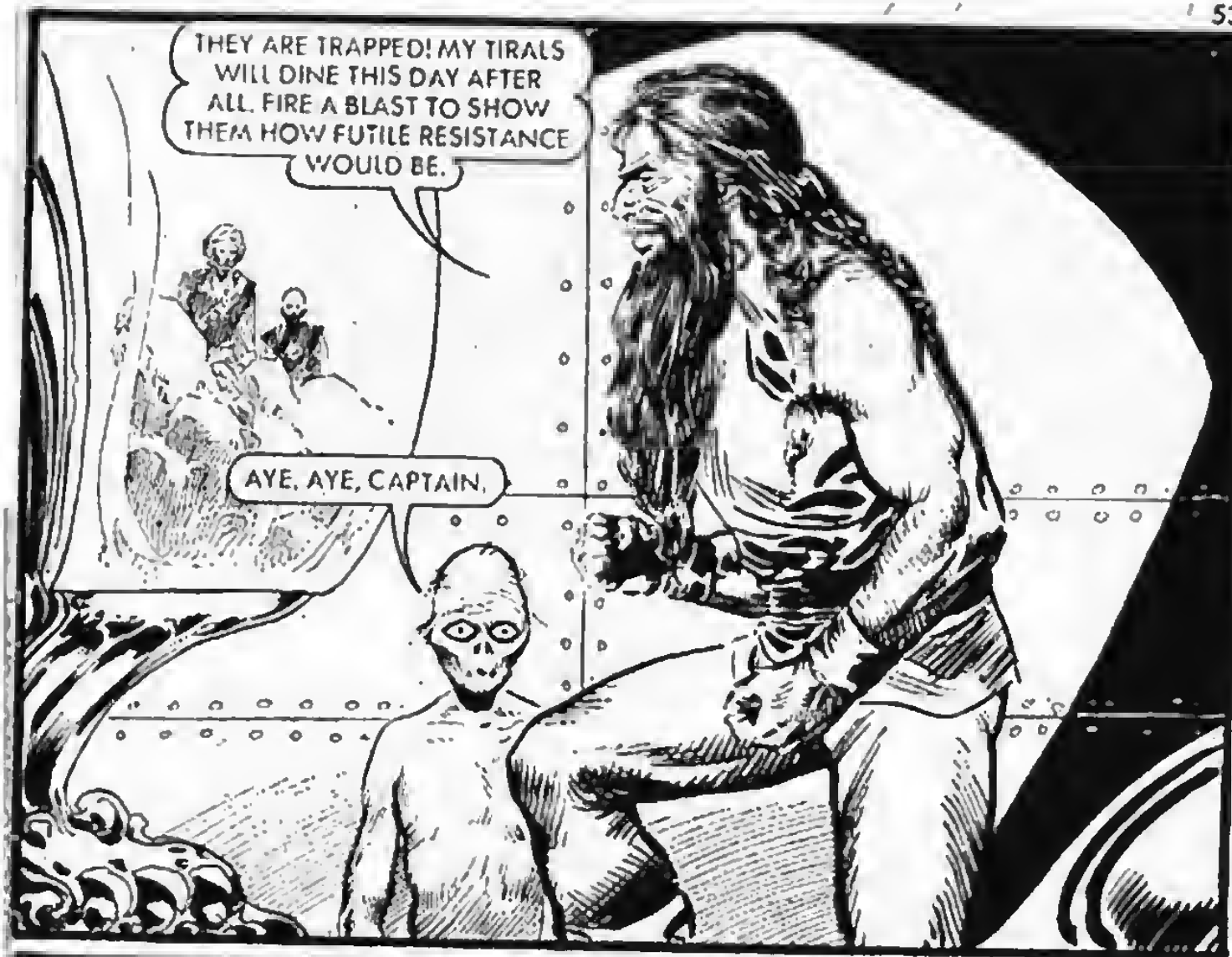
LOOK OVER THERE!

APPROACHING WAS A PIRATE WAR VESSEL.

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE BRINGING IN THE HEAVY GUNS.



AND WE'RE TRAPPED. THESE WALLS ARE SHEER.



WHEN THE DEBRIS CLEARED RYDER SAW A CAVE BEHIND THE ROCK.

MAYBE THEY HAVEN'T GOT US.
AFTER ALL! COME ON, JOE.



NOW WE HAVE THEM! TRAPPED LIKE RATS IN
THAT CAVE. GO, MY FINE TIRALS—SEEK
THEM OUT!

NO ONE NOTICED THE BATTERED ANTI-GRAV CRAFT HEADING SLOWLY FOR THE MOUNTAIN.

I HAVE LITTLE ENERGY LEFT,
BUT PERHAPS I CAN BE OF SOME
ASSISTANCE.

THE CAVE FLOOR WAS SMOOTH AS MARBLE. ITS WALLS WERE HUNG WITH ANCIENT
AND DECAYING DRAPES.

THROUGH THERE! QUICK!

MERLAN WAS REAL, STEVE! THIS WAS
WHERE HE LIVED. HERE, IN THE MOUNTAIN.



BUT THE ANIMALS SUDDENLY STOPPED AND WOULD GO NO FURTHER.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM? THEY'RE WHINING LIKE SOMETHING'S SCARING THEM.



FROM THE DARKNESS, MOVING IN DEATHLY SILENCE, CAME SKELETAL SOLDIERS.

I... DON'T BELIEVE IT!



THE TERRIFIED TIRALS TURNED AND RAN, BUT CAPTAIN TEACH STOOD IN THEIR PATH.

BACK, CURS! TURN BACK AND FIGHT!
DO NOT FEAR THESE BONY SOLDIERS—
DESTROY THEM!

IN THEIR PANIC TO ESCAPE THE GHOSTLY SOLDIERS, THE TIRALS TURNED ON THEIR MASTER.

NO! AAGH!



THE GRISLY WARRIORS ADVANCED, BUT THEIR LEADER DEAD THE PIRATES DID NOT STAY TO FIGHT.

RUN! THEY ARE SPIRITS FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL!



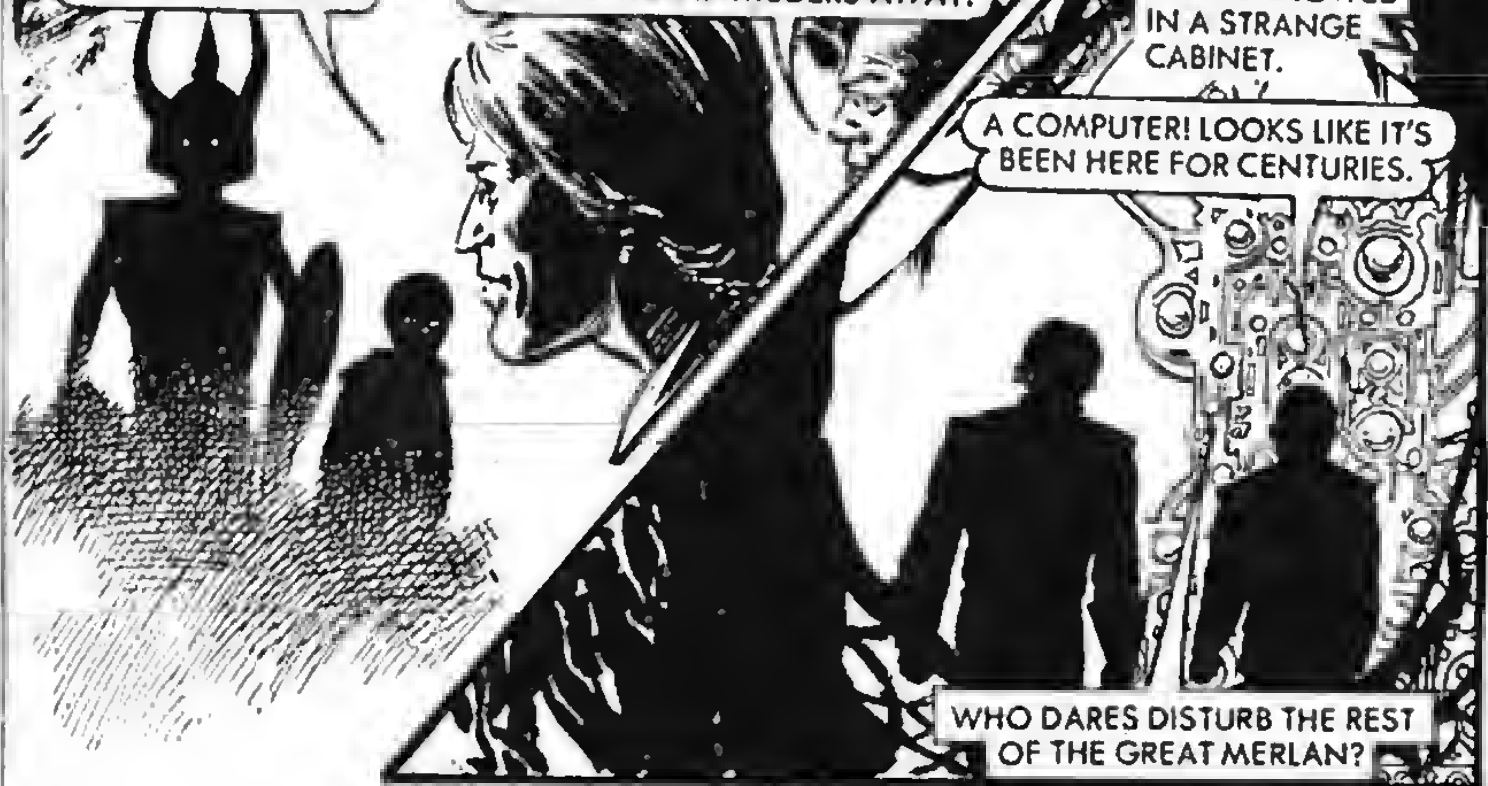
THE SKELETAL BEINGS BEGAN TO FADE INTO MIST.

THEY'RE DISAPPEARING!
THEY'RE NOT REAL.

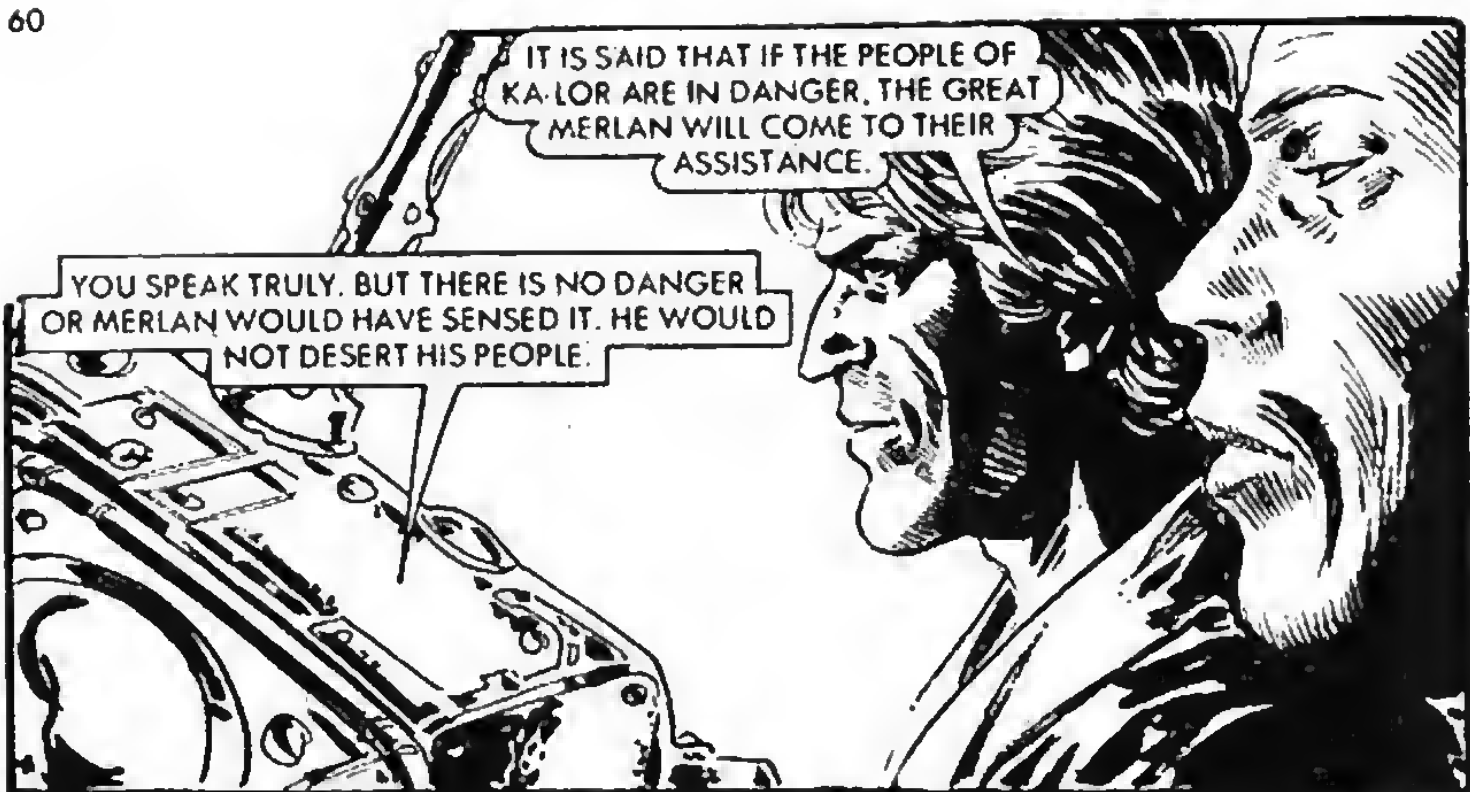
AN ILLUSION OF TERROR, DESIGNED
TO FRIGHTEN INTRUDERS AWAY.

BEYOND THE
ARCHWAY TWO
LIGHTS GLOWED
IN A STRANGE
CABINET.

A COMPUTER! LOOKS LIKE IT'S
BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES.



WHO DARES DISTURB THE REST
OF THE GREAT MERLAN?



IT IS SAID THAT IF THE PEOPLE OF
KA-LOR ARE IN DANGER, THE GREAT
MERLAN WILL COME TO THEIR
ASSISTANCE.

YOU SPEAK TRULY. BUT THERE IS NO DANGER
OR MERLAN WOULD HAVE SENSED IT. HE WOULD
NOT DESERT HIS PEOPLE.



YOU MAY HAVE AUDIENCE WITH HIM.

THE LEGEND WAS TRUE! MERLAN STILL
LIVES HERE, AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS!

BUT—



CRYOGENICALLY FROZEN.
HE CAME HERE AS THE
LEGEND SAID, AND DIED
HERE.

BUT THE COMPUTER DOESN'T KNOW
HE'S DEAD BECAUSE HIS BRAIN IS STILL
LINKED TO THE COMPUTER MEMORY
BANKS. WHO WAS THIS MAN, AND
WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

YOUR OWN WORLD HAS A LEGEND OF A
FAMOUS MAN OF MAGIC. WHAT BECAME OF
HIM?



THEY LEFT THE ROOM—

MERLIN, THE MAGICIAN OF KING
ARTHUR'S COURT? IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE. OR IS IT...?

GUARD YOUR MASTER WELL. COMPUTER, AS
YOU HAVE DONE IN THE PAST.

CAPTAIN TEACH IS DEAD BUT THERE ARE STILL HIS PIRATES TO CONTEND WITH.

THE SKELETONS SCARED THEM OFF BUT THEY COULD BE WAITING OUTSIDE.

THE PIRATES SHOWED NO DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT.

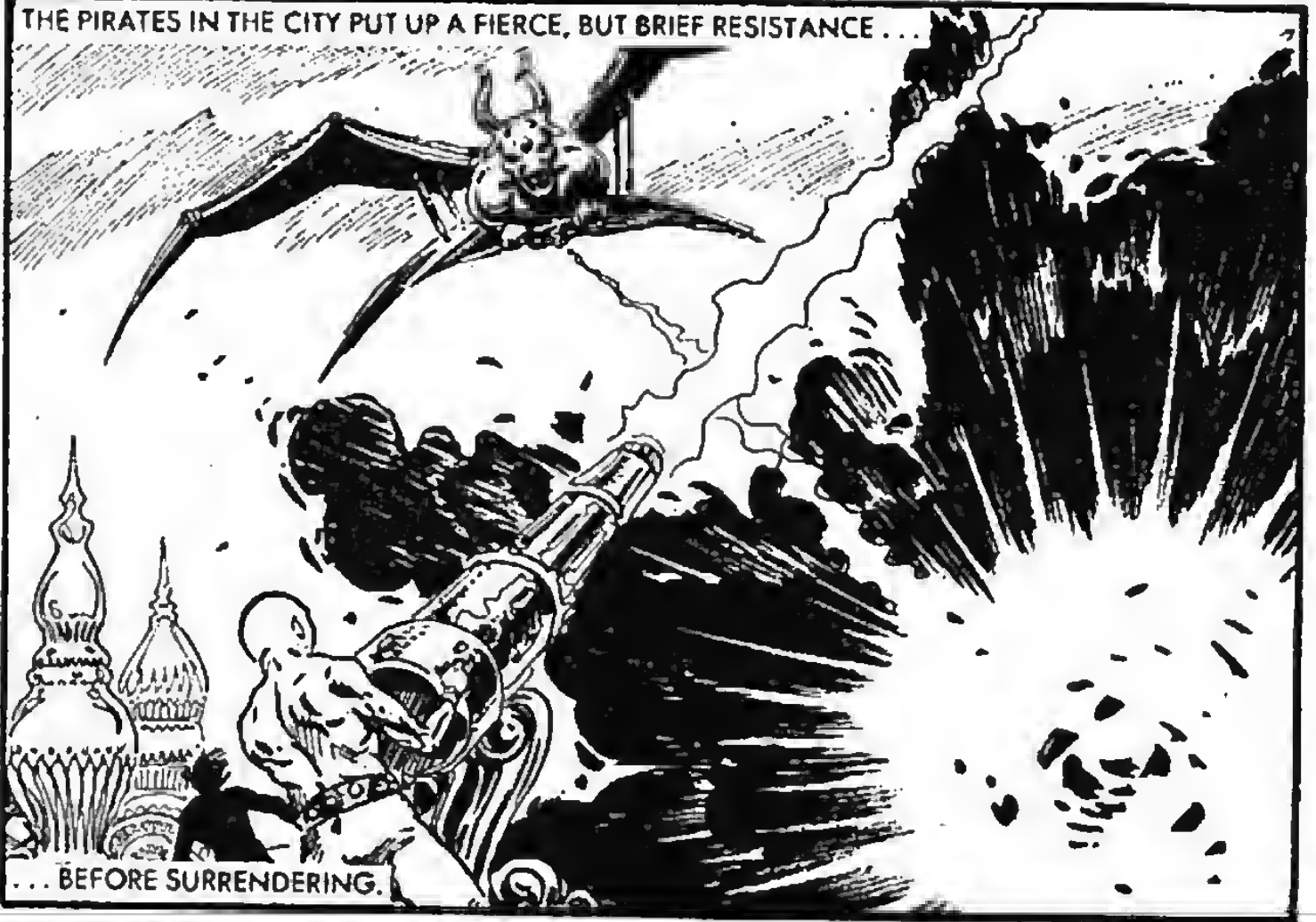
REQUEST YOU BRING PIRATE PRISONERS ABOARD, LIEUTENANT.

IT'S ACOR! HE'S TAKEN THE SHIP!

I WAS TEMPORARILY NON FUNCTIONAL BUT WAS FINALLY ABLE TO FOLLOW. ARRIVING HERE, I TOOK CONTROL OF THE SHIP AND ARRESTED THE PIRATES. THEY DID NOT APPEAR WILLING TO RESIST.

ACOR, YOU'RE A WONDER!

THE PIRATES IN THE CITY PUT UP A FIERCE, BUT BRIEF RESISTANCE . . .



THERE'S ONE MORE THING TO DO
BEFORE WE LEAVE THIS PLANET TO
RETURN TO EARTH. LET THE PEOPLE
OF KA-LOR KNOW THAT THEY MAY
RETURN IN SAFETY TO THEIR HOMES.




THEY RETURNED TO THE FOREST.



WE THANK YOU, STRANGERS, FOR SAVING
US FROM THE BLACK BEARDED ONE.

FROM HERE ON THE SHIPS OF THE GALACTIC
FEDERATION WILL ENSURE PEACE FOR YOUR
PLANET.



BUT YOUR LEGEND OF MERLAN WAS TRUE. HE IS THERE IN
THE MOUNTAIN AND HIS POWER AIDED US, ALTHOUGH
HE NOW RESTS IN PEACE. HE WAS A GREAT MAN. EVEN
ON DISTANT EARTH WE KNOW OF HIM.

THE BLACK CRAFT BLASTED OFF FROM THE PLANET OF KA-LOR AND HEADED EARTHWARD.

I THINK MAYBE I'LL TAKE SOME LEAVE WHEN WE GET EARTHSIDE, AFTER ALL.

MY FATE WILL BE TO BE BROKEN UP AND SCRAPPED. I AM TOO BADLY DAMAGED TO WARRANT REPAIR.

THEY'RE NOT BREAKING YOU UP, ACOR. I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU'RE REBUILT AS GOOD AS NEW.

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF COMPUTER-BRAINED TIN MEN.



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